4001 Harding Road
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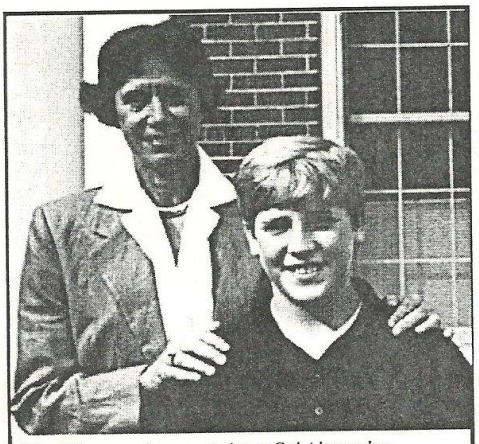
Top of the Hill

Volume 2, Number 1 MBA Junior School November 5, 1996

Honest Cal:Alexander Honor Council Rep.

By Sumeet Vaikunth

The eighth grade Honor Council election for this school year was held on September 20. The students who wished to run had to turn in a paper saying why they should be elected. Out of the field of candidates including Phillip Simpson, Blake Esterday, Zac Hood, Patrick Carnell, George Malone, Ric Nichols, and Andy Gryll, Cal Alexander won the close race. Cal said he ran for many reasons such as: "I would take pride in representing my class, grade, and school in keeping the tradition of honor and trust. Also, I believe in a logical approach to any situation, and I am prepared to handle such with the help of many others who will join me in finding truth and honor."



Mrs. Thurmond congratulates Cal Alexander
Photo credit: Patrick Carnell

Top of the Hill recently interviewed Cal and talked to him about his thoughts on the election and his future at Montgomery Bell Academy. Cal was asked about what he thought should be done to repeat offenders of the Honor Code. He said the first offense should probably result in an in-school suspension, depending on the degree. If someone committed a second offense, his parents should be notified, and for the third time offense, expulsion should result, he comments. "I would be honored to serve MBA for my future years hopefully through my full term at the school." Cal also said that he would not want to change any aspects of the MBA Honor Code. Cal has already had a few cases and he says that so far, "It's been interesting."

Camp Laney '96. . .Now We Know Why Massey Was So Quiet.

This year's seventh grade class returned from Camp Laney on October 2, both exhausted and exhilarated. An added feature of this year's trip was the first day stop in Chattanooga to see the aquarium and the I-max Theater. Seventh graders particularly liked the aquarium gift shop, the I-Max Theater, and Brock's Candy Store. Making this year's favorites list were the Camp Laney meals (excluding one breakfast casserole), spontaneous, student-generated games opposed to the counselor-structured games, all of the high ropes, night time activities—Bombardy, Capture the Flag and skits performed by each cabin, and the hilarious boat races. Comments on different aspects of the trip capture the flavor of Camp Laney '96.

The bus. . .

First there was the bus ride, the Grey Line bus ride! Those bus seats were more comfortable than the recliners at Brookstone's at the Green Hills Mall. Alex Newman

The Zipline. . .

The zipline was like going up on a really high diving board. I tried to jump off, but my legs wouldn't move. I closed my eyes and took a step forward. I quickly opened my eyes to find myself zooming through the air. Will Brackin

Trapeze. . .

I got out on the ledge and thought, "What in the heck am I doing here?" I yelled out, "I'm going to get down now," but I took a few more steps, my legs shaking like a mamma jamma! Then I made it to the platform and saw the trapeze five feet in front of me. Suddenly I was in the air grabbing the bar. It felt so good! Logan Huffman

Games. . .

During every break, we played an invented war game where warring factions would slam tennis balls, frisbees, and other objects to our opponents across the net. This game wasn't like many games you usually play on a tennis court. We started out with about thirty people on each side and seven balls. By the end of the game we had about ten casualties and two balls left. Porter Meadors and Ryan Miriam

Boat races. . .

The boats were the most fun part of the trip. Our cabin group was stuck on which pattern to make, and decided on the box because it was easier to make and wouldn't tip over as easily, so we thought. Each cabin designated two pilots to meet the freezing cold water. Our cabin chose Martin Baird and me to pilot the boat across the river and back. As I got in, I glanced over to the side. To my surprise, Buck Elam launched himself into his boat which rapidly sank. The boat net to ours was long and wide with short sides. The two lightest boys in the entire school, Walt Sharpton and Peter Christenberry, easily floated out to their destination. As the second man in our boat got in, I heard a crack underneath us. It was the yardstick, our boat's main support. Soon our boat and all but one other boat were floating pieces of wet, soggy cardboard.. Alex Lefferts

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Mark and William: 100% Good??

by Mark Wheeler and William Kaminski

Escape From L.A.	37% good
ID4	35% good
Joe's Apartment	15% good
Mission Impossible	20% good
Nutty Professor	95% good
Cable Guy	2% good
A Very Brady Sequel	15% good
The Rock	98% good
Chain Reaction	76% good
Hunchback of.....	82% good

Escape From L.A.

Call me Snake. Call me FAKE is more like it! Escape From L.A. made us want to escape from the theatre. With as much computer animation as this movie had, we thought we were seeing Toy Story II ! This made Escape From New York look good. It had some high points, but nothing to pay six bucks for. The best thing was the trademark quote "CALL ME SNAKE!!" Snake says it twice!

Aladdin: King of Thieves

Uh, I saw half of this at MediaPlay, but I was far away. Next!

Independence Day

We know you'll hate us for this, but we thought ID4 was stupid. It had great effects but that doesn't make up for the shallow plot and lousy acting. Sure, Will Smith was funny, but we're not sure we would be making jokes if my friends all died, and my girlfriend and son were in L.A. when it was destroyed. Only Snake could have survived that. We give it a star.

Joe's Apartment

This movie would have been good if there weren't so many stupid roaches, singing and dancing. Don't be fooled by the MTV name; this movie is pretty dumb.

Mission Impossible

Dunt, dunt , dunt , da, duh, duh, dunt dunt dunt duh da dunt- sorry, we only understood the theme song. The rest was pretty...uh..computer animated. The preview showed too much. "Hey, he's on the train, the helicopter will be here any minute.. there it is. Now it will crash in the tunnel...boom, THAT WAS STUPID! BOOOOOOO!!!!"

The Nutty Professor

This is one of the few movies that we liked. It was a sad story of a fat guy who mutates into a skinny hyper guy. What a great plot! Anyway the fa..uh..overweight man with a hilarious family makes an anti-blubber juice and drinks it then he is skinny and buys spandex, but at what cost? It ends up that this juice causes a multiple personality that ruins his life. How does he cure it? You need to see it if you haven't already.

A Very Brady Sequel

What? A second one? I thought the first one was back in theatres. This movie was almost exactly like the first one. It was pretty dumb, yet their clothes and some quick one-liners were sort of funny. Overall I did not like this movie.

The Cable Guy

We get it!! Okay?!! We understand that Jim Carrey can make silly faces. We don't want to pay six more bucks just to see him say the same stupid words except with a lisp. This was a dark and gloomy movie that wasn't even entertaining. This was the stupidest movie of this summer.

Chain Reaction

This movie, although like The Fugitive, was pretty good. It had neato explosions and some good 'ol mystery. That is all I can say.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

This was a real improvement over Pocahontas. It was funny and a great film for the family!!! I guess. Okay. Next.

The Rock

Very simple. It rocked. It was the best mamma jamma of the summer . Funny, suspenseful, kept us at the EDGE of our seats, and it had more action than an episode of the A-TEAM!!!! It even had a good plot which is rare for an action movie!! The Rock once again rocked!

So until next time, keep buying tickets and tic-tacs and hate Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen movies!

Season ends with Big Red Bowl

by Josh Rosenblatt and Brett Begely

The sweat and hard work of the 8th Microbe Football Team culminated Monday, October 21,1996, when Coach Roberts met the cooler of water.

The season was a success for the 8th graders who ended the season 7-2. Monday night's game was also a success with a huge win over the Saint Edward Saints.

The game was such a huge victory, at an amazing 32-0, that MBA's 2nd and 3rd string players played most of the game. Highlights included two sacks by Jeff Young and Charlie Harris. One starter, Nathen Sensing, later commented that,"the scout team played more than I did." While the first string was in the game, however, they had some incredible runs by Ingle Martin and Reid Murphy. The game marked the welcome end of the evil bear crawls endured in practice.

For the Microbe 7th grade football team the Big Red Bowl was a great disappointment. The game started off positively. With a great kickoff from Zach Wall, MBA held the Mt. Juliet Golden Bears to 6-0 after a failed 2-point conversion. Soon, the game slowly slipped out of reach. The Golden Bears surprised MBA's defense with a bomb to their tight end for a touchdown. At halftime, the Big Red was down 14-0. During the second half, the Big Red's offense showed signs of victory, such as Nick Reid's kickoff return and Brett Begley's around-the-end runs, but MBA could not come up with the win.

Election'96 (con.)

see, both canidates are in the race, but among the younger "voting group" the majority is with Clinton.

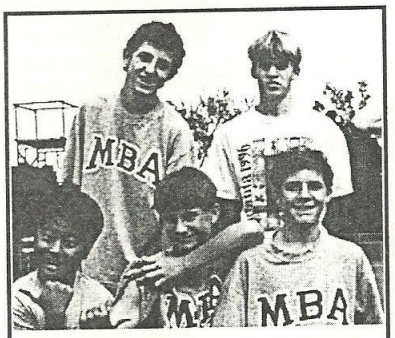
According to Dr. Barrow, "Bill Clinton has demonstrated why he is sometimes known as the "comeback" kid. Many believed Clinton didn't have a shot at reelection in 1994 after the Republican victory. Now he appears to be unbeatable. Unlike Dole, Clinton has captured the American vision. Also, he has benefited from a relatively strong economy and fairly stable international situation. Although questions remain about Clinton's integrity, and events in Iraq and the Middle East are more volatile, it is unlikely that Bob Dole will surmount Bill Clinton's commanding lead in public opinion polls and come out the victor in today's election."

SPORTS

Cross Country Finishes 2nd

by Drew Conrad and Phillip Simpson

MBA's Microbe Cross Country team was off to a blazing start on what seemed to be a championship year. With an all-round strong team, MBA hoped to clinch this year's title from the jaws of one of our rival schools, Woodland Middle. Several of the teams top runners are



Justin Eagle, Warner Jones, Daniel Branscome Brandon Booth, and Drew Conrad
Photo Credit: Patrick Carnell

Brandon Booth, Morgan Miller, Drew Conrad, Philip Simpson, and Warner Jones. The team has been building a strong foundation through hours of vigorous training in hopes of coming out on top for the HVAC championship meet. The entire season culminated with the running of the meet on October 3 at Warner park. MBA finished second with our top runners placing 2nd, 5th, and 8th. Congratulations to all on a great Microbe Cross Country season.

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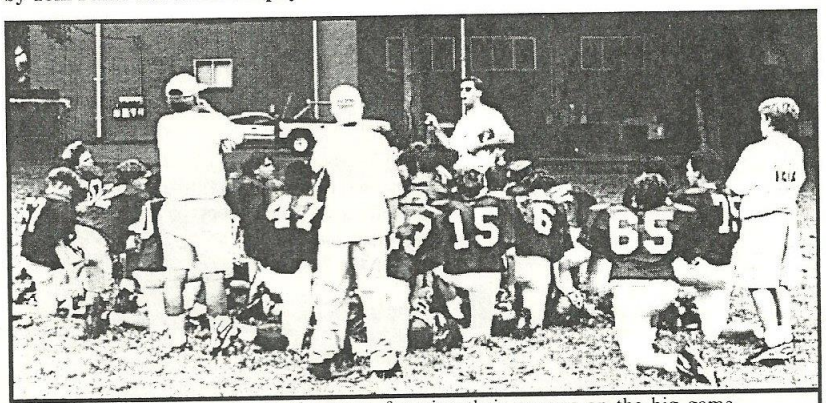
Football Team Ends on a Victory at the Big Red Bowl

by Tom Paine and Reid Murphy



Rev. Roberts preaches to the team, focusing their prayers on the big game.
Photo Credit: Patrick Carnell

In August while everyone else was lounging around the pool, the Microbe football team was practicing from eight to twelve every morning. Soon all the hard work began to pay dividends.

The Big Red started the season by playing Mount Juliet. Even though they did not come out on top, they played a physical game. The defense kept Mt. Juliet in check the whole game; however an array of mental mistakes and turnovers deprived them of the win. Final score MBA- 0, Mt. Juliet- 8.

After the loss, the team was ready to pummel the next opponent willing to come on our field. Our cross-street rival, the Ensworth Tigers, was our next opponent. In a game which saw every member of the Microbe squad play, the Big Red physically dominated the Tigers and the score reflected it.

The game was highlighted by a four touchdown performance by Reid Murphy, and touchdown runs of thirty plus yards from Ingle Martin and Andrew Nevin. Paul Steele and Clifton Hancock also danced into the hollow turf of the end zone. The final score was MBA- 52, Ensworth- 24. The MBA squad then took a road trip to Goodpasture. The Big Red was down by six when, B.J. Billips connected with Ingle Martin for our first touchdown, set up by a sixty-three yard run by Ingle Martin. We came out in the second half with a crushing defense led by big hits from Duncan Fort, Matt Macintosh, Scott Sagen and Leighton Liles. The defense did not allow Goodpasture into the end zone again. Great blocking provided by the offensive line, Franz Grimes, Nathan Sensing, Stephen Smith, William Liles, and Alex Blagojevich, allowed running backs Moses Osemwegie, Bill Alley and Reid Murphy to run the ball consistently .

Final score MBA-22 Goodpasture -6.

The next game featured Springfield. Springfield came out alive and the Big Red was ready . The defense shut them down on the one yard line more than once; however Springfield returned a punt for forty-five yards. The Big Red ran out of time with the score: MBA- 0 Spingfield- 6.

Crosstown rival Lipscomb came to MBA on a muggy Tuesday evening. The Big Red defense proved tough again by recovering a fumble on Lipscombs first offensive play. Running back Moses Oswemgie ran the ball well with much help from the offensive line. Final score MBA-16 Lipscomb-12.

With a three and two record, MBA hoped to get over the hump when the BGA Wildcats arrived two days after Lipscomb. The line, consistent running, and effective passing, put MBA on top while the defense shutdown the wildcat offense. The final score was MBA-12 BGA- 6.

ENTERTAINMENT

Apple Jacks, anyone?

Dear *Top of the Hill,*

I hate those stupid Apple Jacks commercials! Has anyone else gotten tired of them? They made 25 different versions of the same stupid commercial! Do they really think that we don't get the point of their stupid commercials yet!?! The same stupid adult says to the same stupid kids, "Eating Apple Jacks again? Why do you eat it? It doesn't taste like apples." Who cares! It's stupid. All of it is stupid!

Why do we have to pay the extra money for these stupid commercials? I don't want to pay for a different group of stupid little girls saying the exact same thing! The advertising manager at Apple Jacks must be the stupidest man in the entire universe!!

From,
Angriest Man in the Entire Universe.

Dear Angry Man,

I know what you mean. Don't you hate it when people say the exact same things over and over again? They must be so stupid. I have two words of advice for you, Universe. One is to write this letter to Apple Jacks, not to us. Write us a letter that has to do with something relevant. Two, all I know is that you must be thinking about Apple Jacks a lot to write us a letter, so maybe, just maybe, the advertisements work. Three, a thesaurus is a wonderful thing. Some words for "stupid" are asinine, inane, imprudent, irresponsible, moronic, obtuse, irrelevant, absurd, dense, slow, aimless, pointless, senseless, reckless, witless, and my personal favorite, gormless. Anyway, I hope your problem with Apple Jacks is resolved, and you move on to bigger and better things.

From,
TOH staff

Top 10 Reasons for the Big Red Dog

by Josh Rosenblatt

As you probably know, school is here once again, and our Varsity Football team is in the playoffs again . Some people have asked me to explain our mascot, so here is this edition's top ten list.

10. He's just so ferocious.

9. He inspires everyone on the football team to go and hit somebody . . . hard.

8. Two colleges had already taken the Golden Gophers and Rainbow Warriors. Darn!

7. It gives inspiration to those whose goal in life is to be the dog. (Ben Derry)

6. Wasn't Screech dressed as a red dog in an old "Saved By The Bell" episode? And, hey, who doesn't love Screech?*

5. The dog suit is good for when the temperature for the games gets down to a bone chilling 40 degrees.

4. Face it . . . all the really good ones were taken.

3. It just sounds better than "Mighty Microbes."

2. There was a vote between a dog and a pack of gum. The dog won.

1. Really, he's not there to support the team, he's there to pick up chicks.

* Screech is in no way associated with MBA or the "Top of the Hill" staff. This article does not represent the feelings or beliefs of the staff. If you have any problems with Screech or "Saved by the bell," our editor will be happy to see you.

Sports Trivia: Go for 20

by William Sisk

For prizes, submit answers to William Sisk. (Mrs. Bourland's homeroom)

BASEBALL

1. Who has struck out the most in MLB history?
2. Who has the most hits in MLB history?
3. Who has the most hits in one game?
4. Who has pitched the most games in the World Series?
5. Who holds the record for most wins in his career?

NFL & COLLEGE FOOTBALL

1. Who was the first black player to win the Heisman Trophy?
2. Dan Marino has passed at least one TD against every team except for which team?
3. Which NFL team has won three road games in the playoffs to get to the Super Bowl?
4. Who holds the record for longest field goal?
5. Who holds the record for most interceptions in his career? How many?

NBA & NCAA

1. What is the NCAA record for most points scored by a team?
2. Who was the first NBA MVP in 1955-56?
3. Who has the most rebounds in one NBA game? How many?
4. Who holds the record for highest average in a NBA season? What is it?
5. What UCLA player once hit 21 of 22 shots in a NCAA finals?
6. What NCAA team holds the record for most National Championships?
7. Who holds the record for most points in a NCAA game?
8. Who hold the NCAA record for most rebounds in a game?
9. What team won the first NBA Championship and who did they beat?
10. Who is the second NBA player to get a quadruple-double?

FEATURES

A Shocking Experience?

by Josh Rosenblatt

Mr. Corzine and Mr. Spiegl standing over a group standing over Cal was one of many images that remain with me after our Eight Grade Mixer. Our newly elected Honor Council Representative, Cal Alexander, was overflowing with so much energy that, after making some incredibly tough hurdles over the trash can, he pretended to fall down and have a seizure. The crowd around him immediately thought that they were "awesome doctor dudes" from ER and whipped out their electric paddles. After a minute of resuscitation, the chaperones were just a little suspicious, and possibly a little bored, so they got up to see what the problem was. The crowd immediately dispersed and Cal was just able to look up and say, "Uhh... Hi there."

These antics were the norm for the party. A number of dedications were made. One rumor was started that somebody was going to dedicate, "I'm too Sexy" to the football team. This, fortunately or unfortunately (depending on your point of view) never happened. Soon after the start, as soon as the Macarena stopped polluting the gym, the dancing began. For an eighth grade mixer, everybody had a good time.

Election 1996

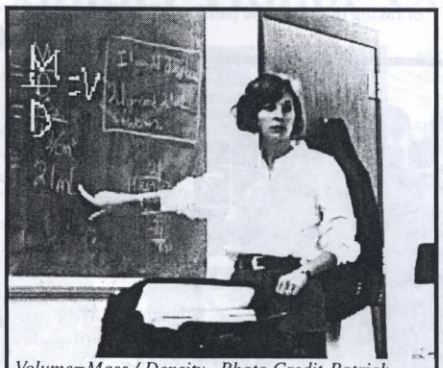
By Paul Johnson

With elections today, the seventh and eighth graders have much to say about the differing presidential candidates.

Some don't like Dole for purely artificial reasons. Patrick Sanders thinks," Clinton will be reelected because Dole is an old man with mediocre ideas." Mr. Jones thinks, "The Republicans will have trouble winning the race because of the fact that their economic plan has not caught on." Bradon Gruber says, "Dole is a poor speaker. He shoulda' had Mr. Calhoun for English." On the other hand, Phillip Simpson likes Dole because of his views on abortion. As you can

Please See *Election '96* on page six

Miss Leigh Comes Down to Earth (Science)



Volume=Mass / Density Photo Credit-Patrick Carnell

by "yo yo yo"

Ms. Amy Leigh, a new teacher this year at M.B.A,is teaching 7th grade physicalscience and 8th grade earth science. She also will be the assistant coach of the swimming team. This December, she will be getting married to Jeff Seiters whom she met through friends in college at the University of Virginia . Ms. Leigh grew up in Norfolk, Virginia and has two younger sisters. One goes to James Madison University and one works as a recreational therapist in Norfolk.

Her whole family is into swimming, so naturally she, too, developed an interest and began swimming at age seven. She swam for her country club in the summers and then for ODAC, Old Dominion Aquatic Club, and then later in high school.

Ms. Leigh minored in biology and majored in Environmental Science at UVA. She then went on to graduate school at Johns Hopkins University. After graduating in December of 1995, she got a government consulting job in Baltimore, Maryland. After three years there, she sought a career change and, since Jeff had a job working at a music publishing company in Nashville, she looked for a job here. When asked her other careers choices besides teaching she said," I really pursued teaching first." To the question of why she wanted to get into teaching she replied, "I've always loved school and the learning process."

She says she has always loved the outdoors and her hobbies include mountain biking, hiking, reading, and water sports. Her favorite TV shows are part of "Must See TV NBC" and include Friends, Seinfeld, and Frasier. For books she enjoys Patricia Cornwell murder mysteries. She says she likes lots of classic rock, some alternative, and country music and her favorite bands include Mary Chapin Carpenter, Dave Matthews Band, and R.E.M. She says she likes the part of Tennessee she has seen but misses the beaches of Virginia and her family the most. When asked what she thought of the presidential election she said that she is not sure who to vote for as of now. Ms. Leigh has liked her experience at M.B.A. so far and hopes to stay here for many years to come.

Lemon Squares !?

by Adam Deihl

It was a sad day for some, that Tuesday, September 10. The place was the Gibbs Room, filled with mothers of every kind. The topic of discussion was the Spaghetti Supper. Then, suddenly, a mom brings up that the Mother's Club should change desserts from brownies to lemon squares. After this comment, warlike arguments sprang from the awed mothers. This caused some harsh remarks. A mother who wishes to remain anonymous quoted, " If we have lemonade to drink and lemon squares for dessert, the Spaghetti Supper will be too lemony!" When the final vote was cast, lemon squares beat the brownies, breaking a thirty year tradition and the hearts of many parents, students, and alumni.

FEATURES

Habitat for Humanity

by Ben Hickerson and Tom Paine

On Saturday September fourteenth Harpeth Hall and MBA finished a house for " Habitat for Humanity." Fifteen eighth graders including: Rick Gotwald, William and Leighton Liles, Bill Alley, Will Greathouse, Tom Paine, George Malone, Patrick Gibbs, Matt Read, Ben Hickerson, Duncan Fort, Paul Steele, and Adam Brooks dragged themselves out of bed to complete a house already started by high school students. We met at MBA at 11:30 on Saturday, and after loading our tools, we made the trip to downtown Nashville. The house, as far as building was concerned, was done. The eighth graders were called in to help landscape and touch up the outer vicinity. When we arrived, some high school students had been working all morning. We had just begun our day of work when the instructors called for lunch. A Subway and a soft drink later, we thought to ourselves, "This isn't gonna' be too hard." It turned out, however, that some boys were more fortunate that others, depending on the job assignments. There was the relaxing job of raking the yard, the painless job of lining the driveway and creating a brick border around the plants and flowers. There was also the boring, sweaty job of picking up glass and rocks from the back yard, and the backbreaking job of digging in the rubble for bricks. Favorite among the duties was the "sit-and-drink-coke" job which a few lazy volunteers performed exceptionally. After a full day's work, several hopped into the "scout" (courtesy of John Buchanan) and rode to Flavors Unlimited. Over Chocolate Mocha or Peanut Butter Delight, Dr. Springer's treat, we reflected on our afternoon of labor and enjoyed the camaraderie.

A Hard working crew *Photo credit: Tom Weaver*

"From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah"

by Nick Reid

Nirvana's 1995 album *Unplugged in New York*, sent one of the greatest bands of all time out without a bang. The exact opposite occurs in Nirvana's new album, "From the Muddy Banks of the Wishkah." This sixteen track killer puts an exclamation point on the fabulous career of the band that changed the nineties.

Put together by Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl, the CD traces five years of the band's non-stop touring. From the days of two-thousand dollars a year to two million, the CD brings us along Nirvana's rise to fame.

The album kicks off with a gritty version of "School" recorded in London. It switches gears and flows into two of the greatest Nirvana songs ever: "Smells Like Teen Spirit" and "Drain You." These songs are fast-paced, energetic, and really hook the listener. The CD then goes mellow with "Lithium" and the great "Heart-Shaped Box." These songs show us a different side to Nirvana. The album ends with a bang with high energy songs like "Breed," "Negative Creep," and "Blew." All of these songs give a blowout finale to one of the best Nirvana CD's ever.

The career, life, and music of Kurt Cobain was one that touched many people. He went over the boundaries, pushed the limits, and in the process, became one of the greatest rock stars of all time.

R.E.M. Gears into Hi-Fi

One year and nine months after the release of *Monster*, Berry, Buck, Mills, and Stipe released their newest album, *New Adventures in Hi--Fi*. The album was a challenge because most of it was not recorded in a studio. The song *Bittersweet Me* was even recorded in Tennessee at a Memphis Soundcheck before a concert there. The album has a well distributed new sound. The sounds of *Out of Time, Automatic for the People*, and*Monster* are all distinguishable along with new experimental sounds from the band as well as on *New Adventures*. The first song, *How the West was Won and Where it Got Us* ,is a good song and through different instruments like the Ennio Whistle and Bozouki.has a new sound. The next song, *The Wake-up Bomb*, was the crowd favorite encore on the *Monster* tour and sounds like a song that would have fit perfectly on that album but instead adds flavor and intensity to this new album. The fifth song, *E-Bow the Letter* , which has Patti Smith singing backup vocals, was the band's first single. *Bittersweet Me* is now the band's current single even though *The Wake -Up Bomb* is a better song.. *Leave* starts with a somber sole acoustic guitar, but then a huge bang hits the listener right in the face with a synthesizer sound..It is like the one found on U2's *Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me, Kill Me* and is followed by an electric guitar.. The next song, *Departure* , has the tune of a song on *Out of Time* until the chorus and constant electric guitar are introduced. The final song on this longest R.E.M. album, is called *Electrolite*. It is another song that sounds like *Out of Time* and ends on the note, "I'm not scared, I'm out a' here." Overall, Berry, Buck, Mills, and Stipe have done it again, and this might be their best to date. With their signing of a five album, 80 million dollar contract extension with Warner Brothers, a future album could have the potential to eclipse this one.

by "yo yo yo"